

Room 110, 1 Campus Drive
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5A3



Telephone: (306) 966-6960
Fax: (306) 966-6978
E-mail: contactus@ussu.ca
Website: www.ussu.ca

The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

The Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Advanced Education
Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

The Honourable Everett Hindley
Minister of Education
Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

The Honourable Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Health
Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Moe, Minister Cheveldayoff, Minister Hindley, and Minister Cockrill,

At the request of Minister Cheveldayoff for a letter outlining the statistics and perspectives of undergraduate students regarding Bill 137, we are writing on behalf of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) to continue to advocate for the Government of Saskatchewan to repeal Bill 137.

Education should be a safe and inclusive place for all students to learn and grow. Students rely on teachers, educators, and school staff to serve as support systems and help foster learning environments that empower acceptance, growth, and inclusion. Students and teachers alike should be able to celebrate all identities, particularly those of Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender diverse youth. Bill 137 continues to directly harm and enact violence on youth whose understandings of self do not conform to prescriptive colonial binaries of gender identity and gender expression.

Bill 137 has continued to not only make classrooms unsafe for students, particularly Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender diverse students, but it has also fundamentally changed how university students pursuing educational studies are learning to teach and explore concepts of identity, belonging, and sexual health. A ban on third-party educational resources is detrimental to students' abilities to learn about important health topics, such as sexual health, consent, and bodily autonomy. It is also detrimental to educators' abilities to teach about acceptance, safety, and consent.

According to the Executive Director of Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS), Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of sexual violence amongst all other Canadian provinces. Moreover, Saskatchewan is consistently reported to have one of the highest provincial increases in HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. We believe that access to sexual health education for students is a right, one that is being directly taken away from students under the age of 16 as a direct result of Bill 137. Education on healthy relationships, safety of self and body, and the ability to recognize sexual abuse should not be a politicized topic. How can we ask University of Saskatchewan College of Education students, and by extension, some of the province of Saskatchewan's future teachers, to out children and jeopardize the safety of youth by increasing risks of mental health crisis, suicide, family rejection, and violence amongst 2SLGBTQQIA+ students as a result of Bill 137?

Your government claims that "The bill outlines a number of rights that parents have to be involved in their children's education and invokes the notwithstanding clause of the Canadian constitution to ensure parents must provide consent if a child wants to change their gender identification in school." However, from over 600 letters written in direct opposition of Bill 137, and the explicit harms emphasized by community members, parents, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and health care workers, students, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples alike, it is clear that Bill 137 undermines children's rights to safety, identity, and autonomy. Along with this letter, we have attached a copy of *Repeal Bill 137: Saskatchewan Speaks Up for Trans Youth, Collective Resistance to Saskatchewan's Bill 137: The Parents' Bill of Rights*. The report outlines the requested statistics and calls for recommendations, including the repeal of Bill 137.

The USSU looks forward to your reply and is willing to engage in further discussion regarding the repeal of Bill 137. The University of Saskatchewan is home to bright, creative, intelligent, courageous, and brave educators, educational students, and students from all programs and disciplines. We are also the future of Saskatchewan. We do not wish to be a part of a future that seeks to harm and silence 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, and specifically the existence of Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender diverse children.

Education is the greatest tool we have to combat hatred, misinformation, transphobia, and queerphobia. Sites of education are also among the most profound spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can come together to learn and engage with one another.

2SLGBTQQIA+ youth do not owe their identities to the government of Saskatchewan. Still we believe that your government owes it to all Saskatchewan youth the right to feel safe, accepted, and have the ability to be themselves in school, regardless of their gender identity, gender expression, or the name and pronouns that they wish to use.

In solidarity with 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth across the Province of Saskatchewan and those who call for the repeal of Bill 137,



Emma Wintermute

President
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Pronouns: She/Her
(306) 966-6965 | president@ussu.ca



Owen Deis

Vice-President (Operations & Finance)
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Pronouns: He/Him
(306) 966-6967 | vpopfin@ussu.ca



Norah Jacob

Vice-President (Academic Affairs)
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Pronouns: She/Her
(306) 966-6968 | vpacademic@ussu.ca



Emily Hubick

Vice-President (Student Affairs)
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Pronouns: She/Her
(306) 966-6970 | vpstudentaffairs@ussu.ca



Wren Dahl

Pride Centre Coordinator
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Pronouns: He/They
(306) 966-6615 | pridecentre@ussu.ca



Alandra Flynn-James

Women's Centre Coordinator
University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Pronouns: She/They
(306) 966-6980 | womenscentre@ussu.ca